Drought relief measures in States

623. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made fresh assessment of the prevailing drought conditions in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra. etc., some of which are in their second or third year of crisis;

(b) if so, the detailed present status thereof;

(c) the specific short-terms steps taken to provide food, water, fodder etc. in different areas;

(d) the long-term steps taken towards drought-proofing initiatives; and

(e) the details of help sought/offered by international agencies / countries to meet the challenges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The drought situation in the States was recently reviewed at a High Level meeting with representatives of the State Government and it was felt that with the good rainfall during the current monsoon, the situation has improved in most of the States.

(c) and (d) A number of timely measures were taken by the Government of India in close coordination with the affected States. These included transportation of drinking water and fodder free of cost by the railways, allocation of foodgrains at Below Poverty Line (BPL) rates, allocation of foodgrains free of cost under Food for Work Programme, allocation of feed category of foodgrains for use as cattle feed, relaxation of norms for release of funds under drinking water supply schemes and also for renovation, restoration, replacement, rejuvenation of existing/defunct drinking water schemes.

(e) No help has been sought from International agencies/countries.

Floods in Orissa and Chhattisgarh

624. SHRI ANANTA SETHI:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total areas in Orissa and Chhattisgarh affected by recent flood;

(b) the extent of damage caused thereby; and

(c) the specific details of relief and rehabilitation measures undertaken in the flood affected districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) As per reports received from the State Governments, the recent floods in Chhattisgarh have affected 6 districts resulting in loss of 12 persons and damage to crops in 0.68 lakh ha. and about 3,900 houses, while floods in orissa have affected 24 districts resulting in loss of 86 lives and damage to crops in 7.78 lakh ha. and to 1.77 lakh houses.

(c) Funds are available with the States under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for taking necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities. Central share of CRF amounting to Rs.21.63 crore to Chhatisgarh and Rs. 64.66 crore to Orissa have been released during 2001-2002. In addition Rs. 100.00 crore has been sanctioned to Orissa for immediate rescue and relief works, in the wake of floods.

Agricultural technology information centres in Bihar

†625. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Agricultural Technology Information Centres set up in Bihar;

(b) the details of expenditure incurred by the Central Government for the said work in that State during the last three years; and

(c) the necessary action taken by Government to impart training to farmers so that they can get information of the said technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has sanctioned one Agricultural Technology Information Centre (ATIC) under Rajendra Agricultural University (RAU), Pusa Samastipur, Bihar.

(b) An amount of Rs. 39,412 lakhs were released during the last three years (1998-99 to 2000-2001).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.